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Shell Norco LP, West Site deemed “Ready for Reuse”

BATON ROUGE – The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Shell Chemical, LP, Norco Chemical Plant celebrated the completion of a Ready for Reuse project at a ceremony at DEQ today. Shell Chemical was awarded a determination letter and certificate by DEQ and EPA signifying that the site has been cleaned and can be put back into use.

The property encompassed by this Ready for Reuse Determination is the entire area of the Norco Chemical Plant and consists of approximately 103 acres. The facility is located on River Road directly east of the town of Norco on the east bank of the Mississippi River. The Norco Chemical Plant was originally constructed in 1954 to manufacture organic and inorganic chemicals. The property previously was under cultivation. With this Ready for Reuse Determination, DEQ and EPA Region 6 agree that Shell Chemical LP has successfully conducted investigation and risk management activities, and the environmental conditions at the property are protective of human health and the environment based on their current and planned future commercial and/or industrial uses.

“This ceremony is a testament to the work many people put into cleaning up this land and getting it ready to be put back into use,” said Peggy Hatch DEQ Secretary. “The Ready for Reuse program is beneficial for economic reasons because land can be put back into use and is now productive again. It’s good for the environment and the economy because the contamination was addressed in a way that meets state and federal standards.”

"The Environmental Protection Agency and Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality are committed to turning contaminated properties back into commercial or industrial uses," said EPA Associate Director Susan Spalding. "Cleaning up past contamination clears the way so that businesses can make the most of future opportunities."

For more information about DEQ’s voluntary remediation program, please visit www.deq.louisiana.gov or www.epa.gov to learn about EPA’s Land Revitalization Action Agenda.